

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
SEPTEMBER 1997  
HNC REVISION: 7 JANUARY 1998  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 1998**

**1. SITE NAME:** Dry Canyon Artillery Range

**SITE NUMBER:** J09CA034800

**LOCATION:**

City: Ventura  
County: Ventura  
State: California

**PROJECT NUMBER:** J09CA034801

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 3

**ASR RAC:** 3

**TAG RAC:** 3

**2. POC'S:**

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**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Dry Canyon Artillery Range consists of 2,880 acres located 53 miles northwest of Ventura, California in and adjacent to Dry Canyon. The historical document at Appendix L, drawing L-1, shows that the 2,880

acres are located in Range 22 West, Township 8 North, in sections 29 –32 and in the southern quarters of sections 19 and 20. The ASR site inspection team identified 1,200 additional acres to the south of the range, which was also used by the Army, for a total of 4,080 acres. The site is currently a small part of the two million acre Los Padres National Forest. The area is used for camping and hiking. The land is owned and managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The area is a semi-desert in the lower elevations and covered with chaparral and conifer trees in the higher elevations. The National Forest contains 28 sensitive plant communities and wildlife habitats. The general location of the former range has an elevation of approximate 4,800 feet above mean sea level and rises to approximately 5,000 feet above mean sea level in the surrounding area. Topography is rugged with slopes, cliffs, and hills. There are no lakes or streams located in the area.

Rainfall is 10 to 15 inches a year. Average annual snowfall is 20 inches. Summer temperatures are 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Winter temperatures average in the lower 30's to upper 20's.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The Department of the Army acquired 2,880 acres of land in a transfer from the Department of Agriculture by Use Permit to the 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery dated 12 August 1942. The acreage was to be utilized as an artillery training range and was named Dry Canyon Artillery Range. This Use Permit was superseded by Use Permits, dated 26 May 1943, 23 August 1943, and 15 January 1944. Other units using the site were the 170<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, the 174<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

No records were found which indicated where targets were located or what training was conducted at this range. No Army improvements were made. On 27 May 1952, the land was declared excess by the Army and was relinquished back to the Department of Agriculture.

## **5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

### **AREA A**

Size, Acres:	1,695 (EE/CA team is to determine if additional 430 acres of Area A should be added to this project)
Former Use:	Impact Area
Present Use:	National Forest
Probable End Use:	National Forest
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	37mm and 105mm

### **AREA B**

Size, Acres:	1,185
Former Use:	Buffer Zone

Present Use: National Forest  
Probable End Use: National Forest  
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed: 105mm  
Potential: 37mm

**AREA C**

Size, Acres: 770 (Acreage not included in INPR)  
Former Use: Firing Point/Bivouac Area  
Present Use: National Forest  
Probable End Use: National Forest  
Ordnance Presence: None  
Type: Not Applicable

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Dry Canyon Artillery Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1997.

**7. STRATEGY:**

**AREA A:** RAC 3;EE/CA

**AREA B:** RAC 3;EE/CA

**AREA C:** RAC 5;NOFA

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group reviewed this ASR and Concurred with EE/CA, RAC 3 for Areas A (1695 acres included in the INPR) and B and NOFA, RAC 5 for Area C. The ASR recommends that the FDE be amended to include 1,200 additional acres consisting of 430 acres of Area A and the 770 acres in Area C. The 430 acres of Area A should be considered for inclusion in this project during EE/CA. The TAG determined that there was no justifiable reason to recommend inclusion of Area C as part of the site acreage. Rational for each area is described below.

**Area A, Impact Area, 1695 acres:** Concur with an ASR strategy of EE/CA for Area A based on Site Inspection team findings of a 37mm cartridge and 37mm/105mm shrapnel. Also, the dedudiving document of December 1951 at Appendix F of the ASR Findings, F-8 supports EE/CA by stating that there were many craters in evidence for the areas marked blue and green on a map and described as the target area, which corresponds to Area A. The ASR states that OE shrapnel was found on slopes, which must have been target points. The TAG determined that ASR comments regarding confirmed OE in Area A could not be ascribed with reasonable certainty to the additional 430 acres. Recommend that further investigation of the 430 acres be accomplished during the EE/CA phase to determine if OE is present and that this acreage be added to site at that time.

**Area B, Buffer Zone:** Concur with an ASR strategy of EE/CA for Area B based on the aforementioned deduinding document, which states that 105mm HE was found in the area marked yellow on the map, which corresponds to Area B. It also recommended that this area be inspected at frequent intervals because of the sandy slopes present. Based on the historical document, this area is designated as having a confirmed OE presence rather than potential. The site inspection team did not thoroughly inspect this area due to the 80-degree slopes and: no OE was found.

**Area C, Firing Point/Bivouac Area:** The ASR recommends EE/CA for this area based solely on a lack of information of where the firing point was located or what else will be found on other site acreage. Recommend NOFA for the following reasons: (1) Area C is not part of the FUDS acreage. (2) The Site Inspection team did not find any evidence of OE at the site. (3) There has never been a report of any OE ever being found in this area. (4) Area C is flat and was probably used for bivouac as mentioned, not as a target area or buffer zone. (5) If guns were fired from this area, it was probably on the perimeter facing north and rounds would have landed in Area A.

**Natural Resources:** Federally- and State-threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, page 5, paragraph 3f and Table 3-2. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** Records indicate prehistoric archeological resources and historical resources are located within the Los Padres National Forest. Due to the sensitive nature of cultural resources, archaeological site locations are not released. Contact the South Central Coastal Information Center, UCLA Institute of Archaeology, Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, California before beginning the project.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA**

**10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only**

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